

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the office action mailed November 30, 2007. In this amendment, Applicant has drafted new claims in to clarify various aspects thereof.

The new independent claims are directed to a semiconductor test apparatus including an interconnect assembly to connect to a device under test (DUT). The now-cancelled claims were directed to an interconnect assembly alone. Unlike prior art test fixtures with cables from the sense measurement units (SMUs) that terminate in wires and provide a jumper connector to a DUT (such as, for example, the Goto reference cited by the Examiner), with the claimed test apparatus, each cable from an SMU of the recited test apparatus is extended to a socket corresponding to a pin of the DUT. Furthermore, a test fixture of the recited test apparatus serves to fully enclose the test apparatus. Thus, jumper wires, such as used in Goto, are not required. This advantage is discussed in Applicant's specification.

Dependent claims set forth various other novel aspects. For example, the test fixture may include a PCB to carry signals from the cables to the pins of the DUT. As another example, each test fixture connector may include an internal connection configured such that, only when the cable corresponding to that test fixture connector is fully received to that connector, an outer metallic enclosure surrounding the plurality of wires of the cable is electrically connected to the at least one of the plurality of wires of the cable configured to carry the guard signal. These advantageous aspects are discussed in the Background of Applicant's specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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